

UTAH STATE HISTORY 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction



*“It is not enough to be busy; so are the ants. The question is: What are we busy about?”
– Thoreau*

In 2007-2008, State History staff was busy. The numbers and the details of activities (which will follow) tell that story.

But “what are we busy about?” This small agency is passionately involved in a large mission, one that is woven into the fabric of every Utahn’s life.

Our mission is to preserve and share the past in order to make Utah a better place—in the present and future:

- To make communities better places—places where people feel at home and grounded in heritage.

- To strengthen rural Utah through heritage tourism and, through a strong economy, provide opportunities for families to thrive.
- To foster individual learning, understanding, and excitement about their place in the panorama of history.
- To benefit decision-makers with knowledge from the past as they plan for the future.
- To provide professional tools and assistance to agencies and local governments to help them do their jobs more efficiently.
- To further understanding and cooperation between Utah's various groups.
- To preserve knowledge and resources for future generations.

State History's professional staff, with specialties in history, library and archives, historic preservation, archaeology, community heritage, federal and state laws, and information delivery, work for these outcomes. That's what we're busy about.

Information delivery

Digitization

National Register Database

Working with the National Park Service, State History has digitized its National Register files and will soon make them available to the public. The database:

- Includes buildings, archaeological sites, and historic districts
- Gives detailed info on the building's or site's location, history, architecture, owners, etc.
- Shows photos

Workshops and Training

Historic Preservation Workshops

Staff gave training on

- How to research a building
- Building codes for historic buildings



- Tax credits
- Certified Local Government issues
- Heritage tourism
- Utah's architectural folklore
- Seismic upgrades for residential buildings
- Historic masonry rehabilitation
- Section 106 compliance

History

- Journals and journaling

Archaeology

- The archaeology of Utah
- Law enforcement and human remains
- The Prison Site excavation

Audiences included:

- Law enforcement officers from jurisdictions around the state
- Craftspeople
- City officials and inspectors
- Community members
- Members of historic preservation commissions
- Schoolchildren
- Tourism officials
- State and federal agency officials

Media/Publications

Photographs

State History photographs were used in

- Four major books
- Film productions
- National news media (Short Creek raid)
- Local news media (mine disasters, photos for KUED's "We Shall Remain", and more)

Utah Historical Quarterly

State History printed four issues of *UHQ*, including a special issue on the Utah War.

Online publication

Staff created a lesson plan on the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad.

News media

State History responded to media requests or was featured in media 143 times during the year. Media appearances included articles, interviews, and photos from the Research Center.

Website

- State History's website received 949,314 visits. The most-visited pages were those providing online research information, such as the cemetery and burials database and other research resources.
- Staff implemented an interim design/navigation solution to simplify the user experience.
- State History launched and completed 70% of a total redesign/renovation of its website. The project included public surveys, testing, navigation and content development, and a new design. The new site will be online during Fall 2008.

Cultural Resource Preservation



Research resources

Staff:

- Added 1,197 items to the History catalog
- Acquired 37 new photo collections, with a total of 7,050 photographs
- Processed 35,851 total photographs, adding 190 linear feet to the processed photograph collections
- Processed these significant photograph collections
 - Horace Sorensen Collection
 - Don Grayston Photograph Collection
- Processed 112 linear feet of manuscript collections
- Accepted these significant manuscript collections
 - F.A. Barnes collection
 - William MacKinnon papers
 - United States Fuel Company papers
 - Hiawatha Coal Mine records
- Processed these significant manuscript collections:

- Charles Peterson papers
 - Mormon History Association records
- Created 190 inventories

Historic structures

Technical assistance

Staff assisted several agencies and governments with building renovations.

- State Capitol: The Capitol restoration was completed. Throughout the process, State History provided support and advice on restoration issues, including obtaining matching historic glass globes for the central chandelier.
- Fort Douglas Military Museum: Advised on renovation and assisted with fundraising and proposed National Historic Landmark designation.
- Springville historic Presbyterian Church: Identified a solution to protect and preserve the stained glass windows at less cost than the original proposal, which would have damaged the windows.
- Zion National Park: Provided professional advice on treatment of a gas leak around the historic cabins
- Fitzgerald House and Draper Park School in Draper: Provided professional advice.
- Governor's Mansion Carriage House: Gave technical assistance on restoration techniques.
- Kanab Carnegie Library: Advised on plaster ceiling.
- Bradshaw House Museum, Hurricane: Advised on renovation.
- Leeds CCC Camp: Advised on developing for commercial use.
- Price Main Street: Advised on National Register nomination
- Monticello 1916 tractor: Advised on National Register nomination
- Ogden Union Station: Provided solution for conserving and repairing historic windows
- Albert Fisher Mansion and Carriage House, SLC: Advised on renovation, re-use, National Register nomination, and tax credit
- Consulted on proposed oil and gas drilling near the Spiral Jetty.

National Register

New properties on the National Register included:

- Providence Historic District, Cache County
- Yalecrest Historic District, Salt Lake County
- David E. Davis House, Tooele County

Grants

History awarded \$100,000 in matching grants to CLGs for the 2008-09 granting cycle. These grants were used for training, building rehabilitation, historic building surveys, and National Register listings.

Surveys

Staff completed Reconnaissance Level Surveys of the historic structures in the towns of Emery and Ferron.

Mitigation

Staff helped the Forest Service develop a mitigation solution that will rehabilitate and re-use the Pine Valley Guard Station.

Archaeological resources

- The division wrote guidelines for and reviewed the Nine Mile Canyon National Register nomination, a first-ever federal nomination that includes federal, private, and state lands. The division developed guidelines regarding this nomination.
- Staff assisted with archaeological investigations at Fish Creek Cove, near Torrey, in a cooperative project.

Assistance with compliance responsibilities

- Section 106/404 review: Reviewed 2,445 cases during the fiscal year.
- U.S. Forest Service: Helped create a precedent-setting solution to the FS responsibility to mitigate the adverse effect of transferring property. The solution will renovate the Pine Valley Guard Station for public use.
- USDA Rural Development: Collaborated on a Programmatic Agreement to streamline Section 106 Review process for this agency.
- Division of Wildlife Resources: Collaborated on approaches to 404 consultation on the Watershed Restoration Initiative
- BLM Vernal Field Office: Agreement on ways of handling Section 106 caseload caused by increased oil and gas drilling.
- Milford Flat Fire: Staff helped innovate efficient, more-effective ways to recover data during reseeding processes.

Partnering

- Staff served on the Salt Lake City Preservation Plan Advisory Committee, charged with creating a city-wide plan to guide future historic preservation efforts in Salt Lake City.
- State History launched a Community History Grants Program in partnership with the Utah Humanities Council.
- State History and BLM crafted a new Programmatic Agreement.

Human Remains

- With the Division of Indian Affairs, State History published new rules for the recovery of Human Remains.

Public Involvement with History



Research

The Research Center served 13,700 patrons. These included:

- 3758 walk-in patrons
- 5626 phone requests
- 239 mail requests
- 4083 e-mail requests
- 458 photo orders

Public Understanding

Historic Preservation

State History contributed to the state energy efficiency initiative by educating officials how historic preservation, which involves the conservation of embodied energy, is “green.”

Staff taught several workshops for the public at the Utah Heritage Foundation’s preservation conference in April.

Staff met with the Farmington Planning Commission to discuss concerns on the issue of historic preservation as it relates to private property rights.

History

- State History’s Annual Conference drew hundreds of people to participate in day-long history sessions, two evening events, tours, and workshops. The keynote speaker, national author James Loewen, raised awareness of racism in history and today.
- Research Center staff provided the Governor’s office with historical information and perspective on such issues as education, health care, taxes, and protocol.
- State History staff assisted with the event marking the release of the Utah quarter in November.

Prehistory

- State History sponsored the annual Prehistory Open House, offering crafts and activities for children and tours of the archaeology labs.
- Staff assisted National Geographic with filming in Utah's West Desert.

Heritage Sites and Heritage Development

- Staff helped create an agreement transferring \$2.3 million from the Four Corners Interpretive Center to heritage development projects in the region.
- State History worked with the Cultural Heritage Council to develop outcome measures for CHC grants.
- Staff worked with This is the Place Heritage Park on developing interactive experiences that are documented by history, including the reopening of the Orson Pratt Observatory as an observatory.

Volunteers

54 volunteers donated 2,077 hours in the Research Center, Collections program, Public History program, and Antiquities Section.